



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant: Darren James Zellak

CONNECTOR COUPLING/DECOUPLING TOOL

Serial No. 10/673116

Filed 09/29/2003

] Before the Examiner

Paul T. Chin

Art Unit 3652

Atty. Docket RI92403

RULE 1.131 AFFIDAVIT

DARREN JAMES ZELLAK hereby states under oath that

1. He is the inventor of the invention disclosed and claimed in the above identified patent application.
2. He is and has been employed as a fiber optics engineer by Richco Inc. at all times referred to in the attached document entitled Invention Record and continuously to the date hereof. All references to others in said document relate to fellow employees and contractors of Richco Inc., who were at all time in a confidential relationship with Richco Inc.
3. On or about February 19, 2002, he prepared said document entitled Invention Record and he prepared and has personal knowledge of all of the documents, things and statements referred to in said document. To the best of his knowledge and belief all statements and things referred to in said document, including the dates of set out therein, are true and correct, and he hereby affirms the same.
4. He diligently pursued the making of said invention from and after November 27, 2001 and he completed making said invention before February 19, 2002 and thereafter he and contractors for and employees of Richco Inc. made and tested various embodiments of said invention. The said invention was not known or used by others or patented or described in a printed publication before his invention thereof and was not patented or described in a printed publication in the United States or in a foreign country or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the date of filing the above identified application for patent.

WHEREFORE he has executed this affidavit on April 11, 2006..

Subscribed and sworn to
on the date written above.

Notary Public

My commission expires

DARREN JAMES ZELLAK





Richco, Incorporated

INVENTION RECORD

TO:

Operating Company Invention

Record No. 0201

Date: February 19, 2002

1. NAME: Darren James Zellak
Full First Name *Full Middle Name* *Last Name*

2. POST OFFICE ADDRESS:

1555 Kaimy Court Aurora DuPage IL 60504-7538
Street City County State Zip

3. CITIZENSHIP: U.S. 4. RESIDENCE: _____
(If different from above)

1a. NAME: _____

2a. POST OFFICE ADDRESS:

Full Middle Name

Last Name _____

2a. POST OFFICE ADDRESS:

Street *City* *County* *State* *Zip*

3a. CITIZENSHIP: _____ 4a. RESIDENCE: _____
(If different from above)

5. TITLE: Interconnect Insertion-Removal Tool

6. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION:

As the density of cable connectors in a given space rises it is becoming increasingly more difficult to insert and extract them. These difficulties arise due to the small distances the connectors are spaced to one another or to other physical structures. The small spaces do not allow for fingers to adequately reach a given connector without disturbing other connectors in close proximity. There is a need for a hand tool that allows the user to remotely attach to and then hold a connector, shown in this embodiment as a SC fiber optic connector, during insertion or extraction from its connection port. See attached hard copies of model concepts.

7. CONCEPTION DATE: (*Specify and supply copies of all documents describing same; if related to government or other contract, give contract number*)

The concept was first thought about on November 27, 2001. On this date I was first shown a quotation that was done a month earlier for Cisco Systems. This quote spurred the idea for a hand tool to be used during insertion/extraction of connectors.

Note: On October 26, 2001 Richco quoted, quote #109480-0A0, a design for Cisco Systems of Loomis California. The design was a snap fit cable routing channel for an SC fiber optic connector. See attached quote. The current invention does not apply to or satisfy the specific customer's requirements.

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P.J.Z
22-1958-2

8. FIRST DISCLOSURE TO OTHERS: WHERE, WHEN, AND TO WHOM: (*Specify and supply copies of all documents describing same*)

First concept was discussed with Dan Choisser and Bob Reisel the week of November 28, 2001. This concept was further discussed at the December 10, 20001, New Products Committee (NPC) meeting. The meeting is held weekly at the Richco, Chicago office. See attached meeting minutes from Dan Choisser. Cheryl Cummins, Dave Decker, Curt Fuller, Frank Lodi, Mario Pieroni, Bob Reisel, Dan Choisser and myself, all of which are Richco employees, were present.

9. GIVE DATES AND DETAILS REGARDING SAMPLES, INFORMATION OR PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO INVENTION WHICH HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE GIVEN TO PERSONS OUTSIDE RICHCO CORPORATION: (*Specify and supply copies of all documents describing same*)

On January 08, 2002 solid model CAD files were sent to Scimitar Prototyping, Inc. of Streamwood, IL. and Prototype Tooling & Plastics Co. (PTP) of Elgin, IL. for quoting. A purchase requisition/order, #1004884, was awarded to PTP on January 10, 2002. The first prototype model was received at Richco on January 11, 2002. Design changes were made and a revised model was created by PTP and received on February 02, 2002.

10. FIRST PRACTICE OF INVENTION: (1) IN EITHER (a) laboratory, (b) pilot plant, (c) commercial plant, or (d) elsewhere; or (2) BY (a) building and testing, or (b) use (WITHIN RICHCO CORPORATION OR ELSEWHERE). If so, WHEN, WHERE, AND TO WHAT EXTENT: (*Specify and supply copies of all documents describing same*)

The first prototype model was received from PTP on January 10, 2002. The model was demonstrated in use by myself to Mike Brunke, Dan Choisser, Ryan Garret and Sam Jang, all Richco Engineering personnel

11. HAS ANY PRODUCT RESULTING FROM THE PRACTICE REFERRED TO IN QUESTION NO. 10 (1) BEEN OFFERED FOR SALE, OR SOLD? IF SO, WHEN, WHERE AND TO WHOM? (*Specify and supply copies of documents describing same*)

Not at this time.

12. IF THE INVENTION IS EMBODIED IN AN APPARATUS, ARTICLE, CIRCUIT, COMPOSITION OF MATTER, COMPOUND, SOFTWARE, ETC., HAS IT BEEN OFFERED FOR SALE OR SOLD? IF SO, WHEN, WHERE AND TO WHOM? (*Specify and supply copies of documents describing same*)

13. IF INVENTION HAS NOT BEEN PRACTICED (EXPERIMENTAL OR ON A LARGER SCALE) WHEN IS SAME EXPECTED TO BEGIN:

14. LIST THE MOST PERTINENT PRIOR ART (I.E., PUBLICATIONS, PATENTS, EARLIER MARKET PRODUCTS) WHICH YOU ARE AWARE:

None aware of at this time.

Pg. 2 of 2
02-19-02

15. ATTACH HERETO A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION. (Number, date, and initial each sheet attached and indicate the number of sheets here: 27.) Include (a) Statement of objects of the invention or problems to be solved; (b) Statement of advantages over the prior art; (c) Any and all drawings of the invention; (d) Indication of whether a search of the prior art has been conducted and attachment of the results; (e) Attachment of any other pertinent invention record, patents and publications of which the inventor is aware; (f) Examples of the invention; (g) Any reports, letters, etc., bearing on the invention; (h) Practical importance of the invention and extent of probable use.

The undersigned have read and understood this Invention Record:

02-19-2002 Dawn J. Zellak Daniel Choussier 2-19-02
(Date) (Signature of Inventor) (WITNESS) (Date)

(Date) (Signature of Inventor) (WITNESS) (Date)

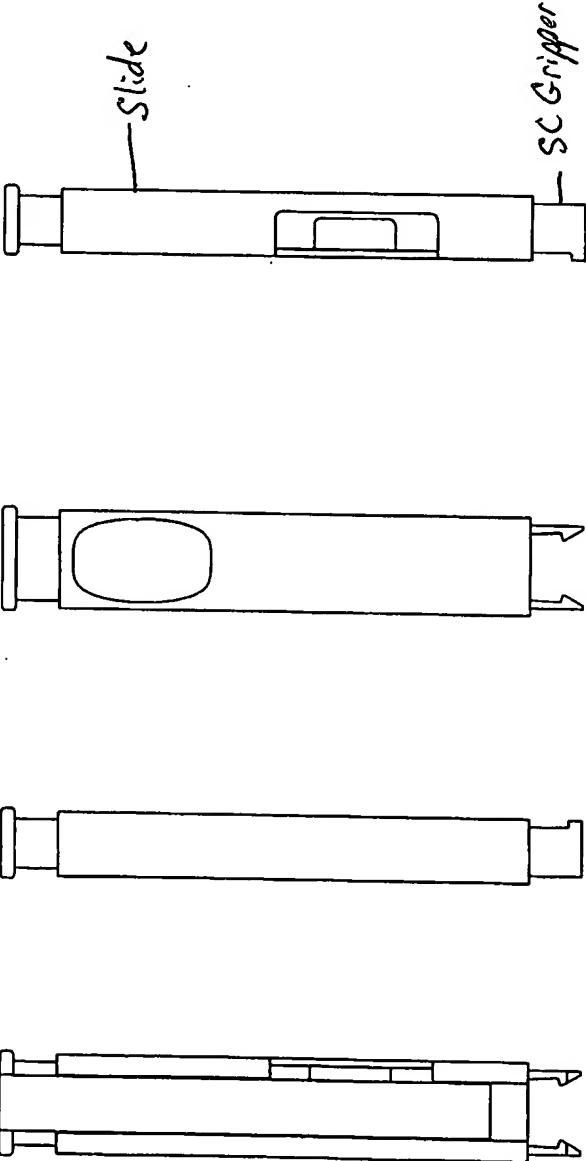
NOTE: 1. DATES: Give not only the dates asked for, but note any records or circumstances that tend to establish the dates - e.g., laboratory or engineering notebooks, drawings, meeting or convention dates, etc.

2. DESCRIPTION: The description should be accurate and must set forth both the manner and process of making and using the invention and the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out the invention. In order to provide for broad protection, the description should include both a preferred method or embodiment and the general principles underlying the invention. Give chemical formula, synthesis, melting or boiling points of a new compound; give components, proportions and synthesis of composition of matter; give details of structure, if article; give details of steps of process; give structure and operation of apparatus. Include equivalent materials or conditions.

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D.J.Z.
m-14-2002

REVISIONS		DATE	APPROVED
ZONE	REV.		

Assembly of
model used for
first prototype.



Q.J. 18-17-01

<COMPANY NAME>	
NAME	DATE
Richco, Inc.	
DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES	
TOLERANCES:	
FRACTIONAL ±	
ANGULAR MACH. ±	
BEND ±	
TWO PLACE DECIMAL ±	
THREE PLACE DECIMAL ±	
ENG APPR.	
MFG APPR.	
QA.	
COMMENTS:	
NEXT ASSY	USED ON
APPLICATION	DO NOT SCALE DRAWING

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS
DRAWING IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF
<INSERT COMPANY NAME HERE>. ANY
REPRODUCTION IN PART OR AS A WHOLE
WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF
<INSERT COMPANY NAME HERE> IS
PROHIBITED.

FEB 15 2007

SC Gripper Tool

SHEET 1 OF

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02-15-02



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant	Darren James Zellak]	Before the Examiner
	CONNECTOR COUPLING/DECOUPLING TOOL]	Paulk G. Chin
Serial No.	10/673116]	Art Unit 3652
Filed	09/29/2003]	Atty. Docket RI92403

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WHEREFORE he has executed this affidavit on April ___, 2006..

Subscribed and sworn to
on the date written above.

DARREN JAMES ZELLAK

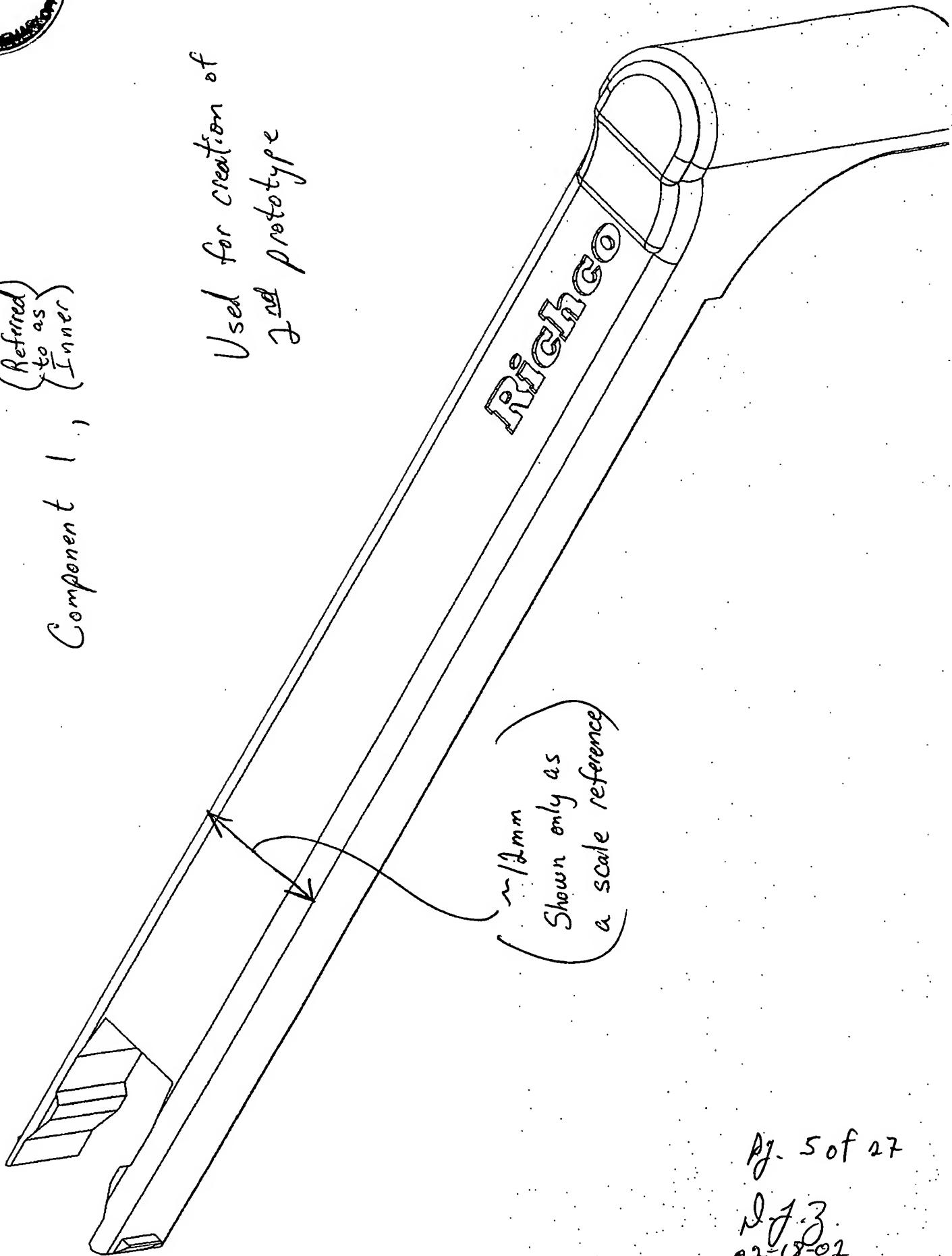
Notary Public

My commiission expires

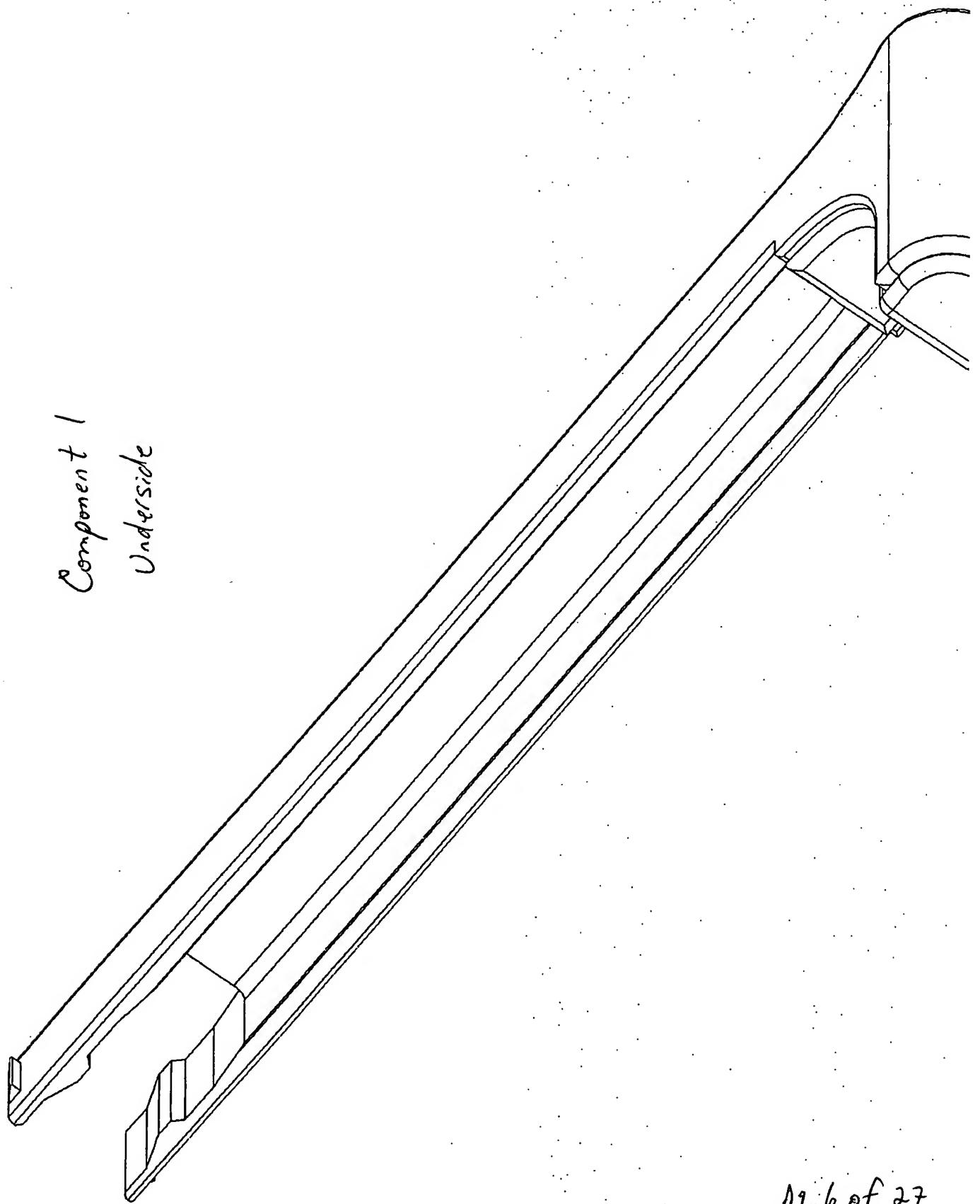


Component 1, (Referred
to as) (Inner)

Used for creation of
2nd prototype



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NfJ3
02-18-02

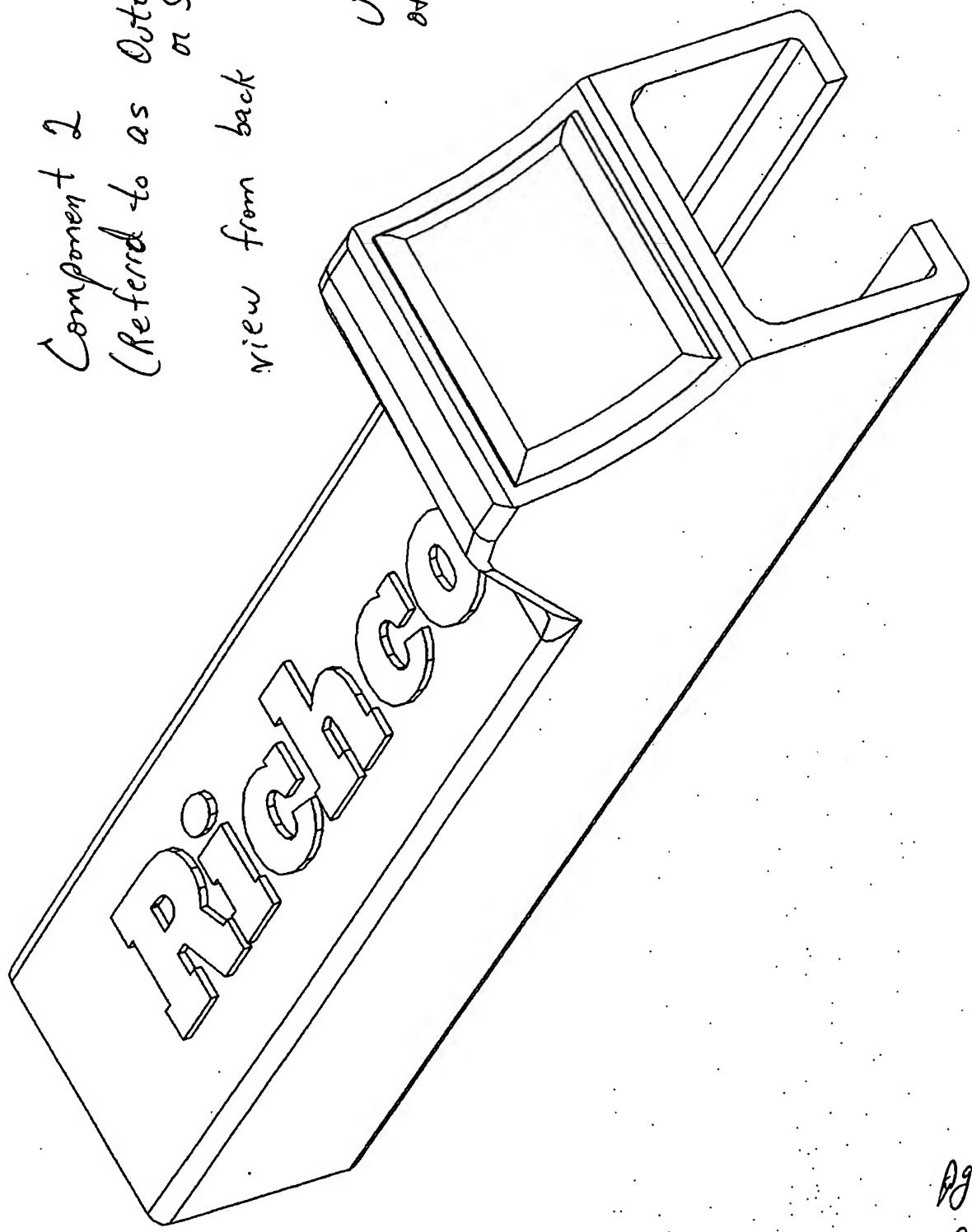


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Dj-3
0818-02

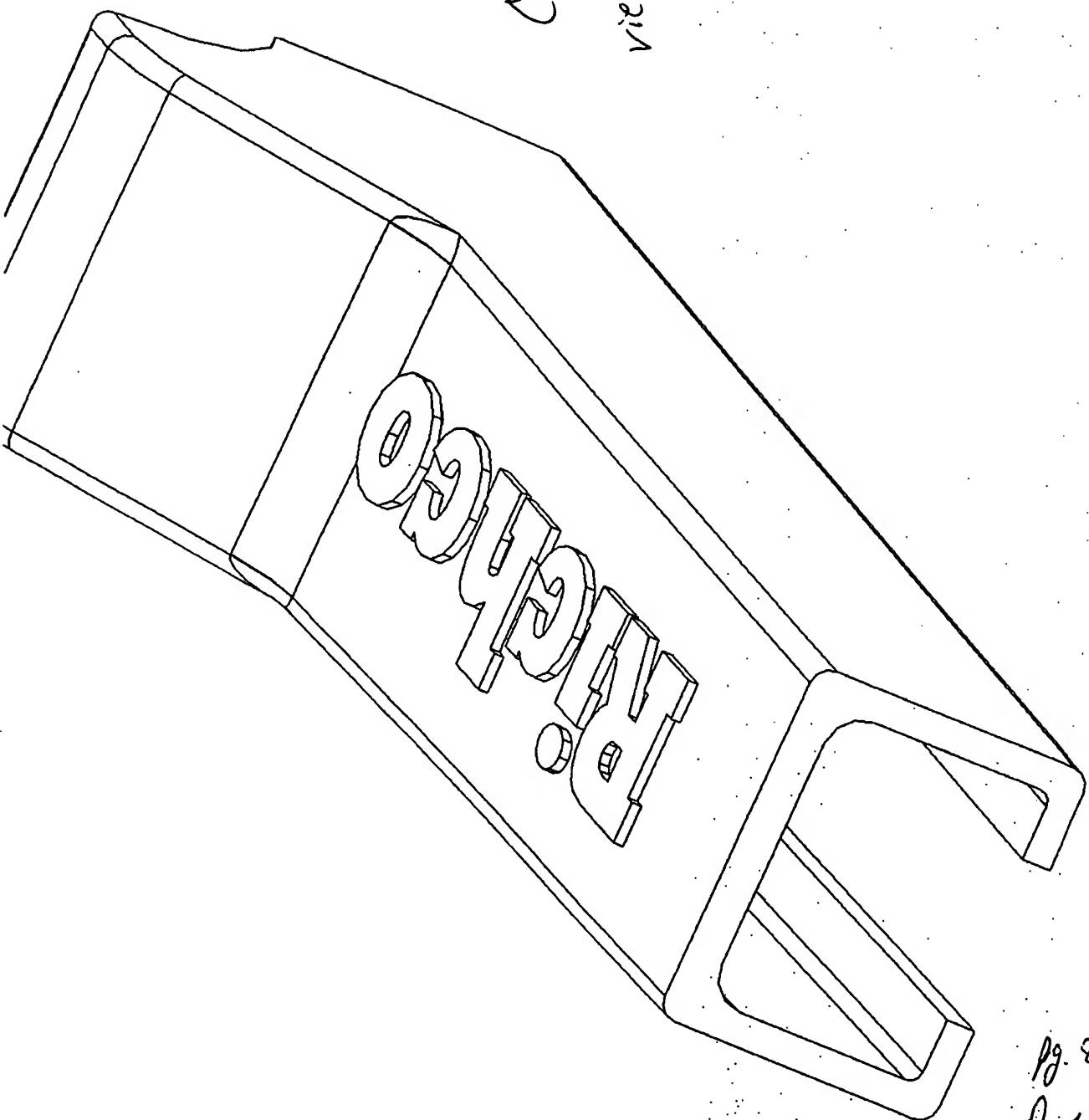
Component 2
(Referred to as Oster or Sleeve)
or Slide

view from back

Used in creation
of second prototype



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Df.3.
09-18-02

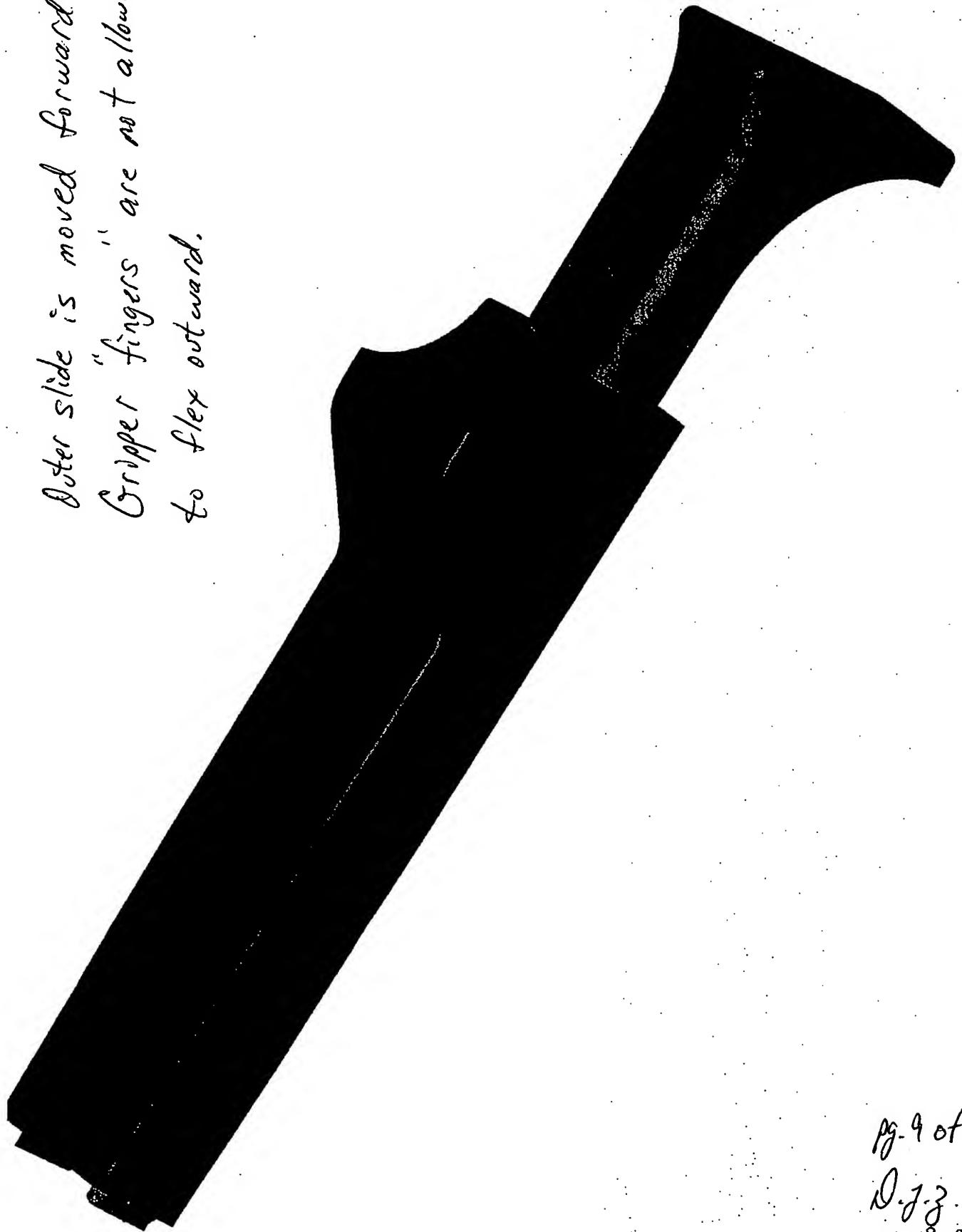


Component 2
view from front

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Outer slide is moved forward.

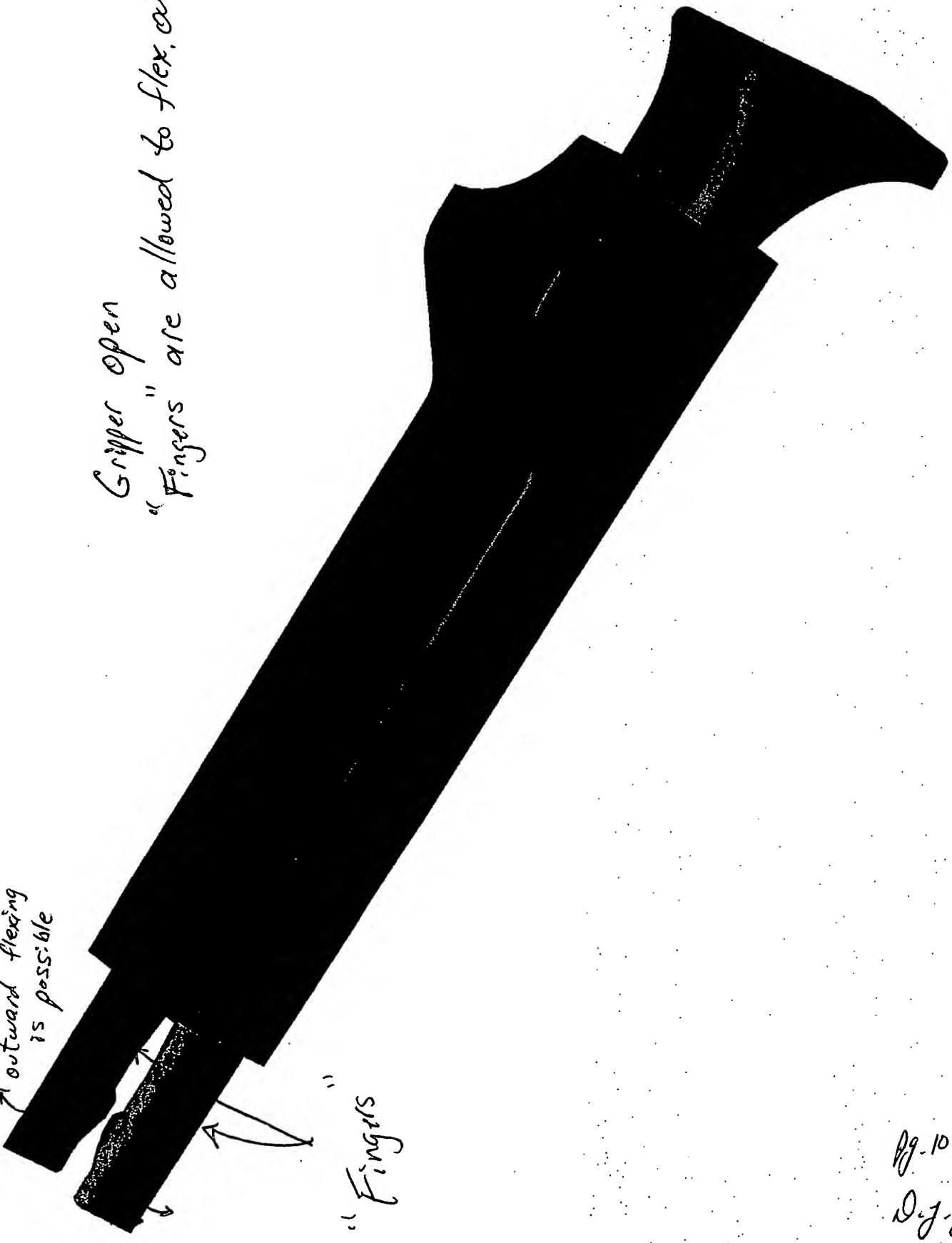
Gripper "fingers" are not allowed
to flex outward.



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D.J.Z.
02-18-02

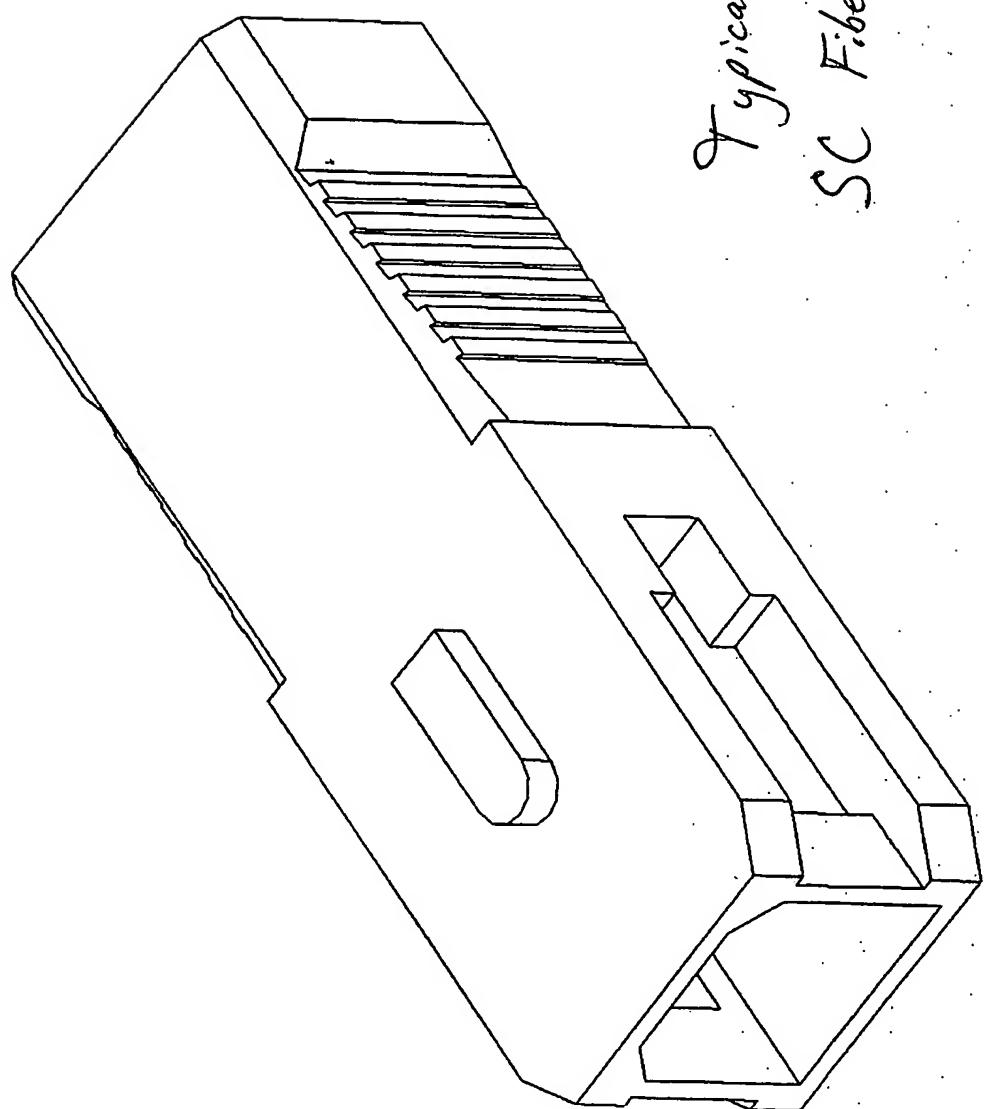
Outward flexing
is possible

Gripper open
"Fingers" are allowed to flex outward.



"Fingers"

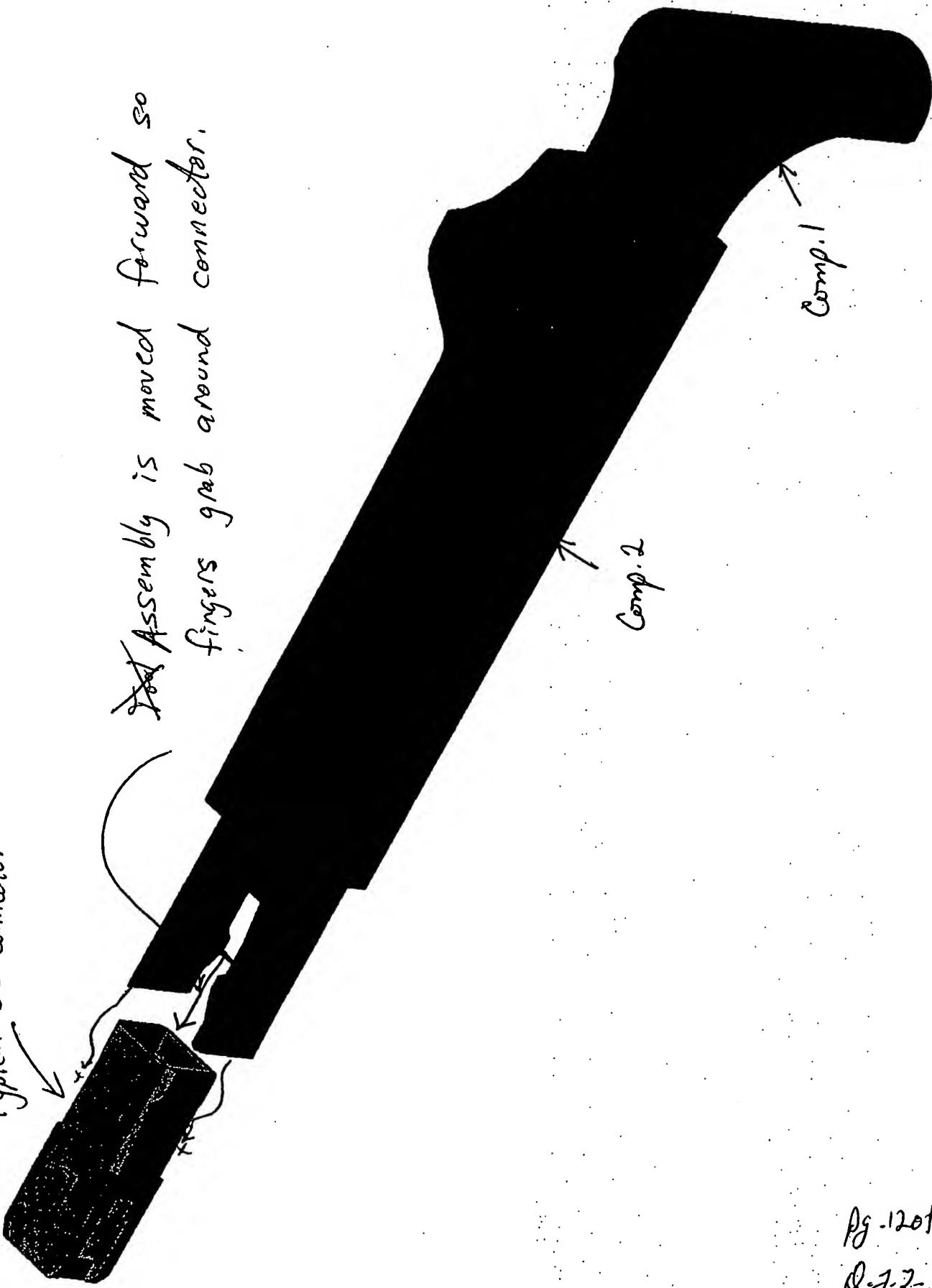
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D.J.Z.
02-28-02



Typical housing -
SC Fiber Optic Connector

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D.J.Z.
02-18-02

Typical SC Connector



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03-18-02

Fingers are in place around typical
SC connector.

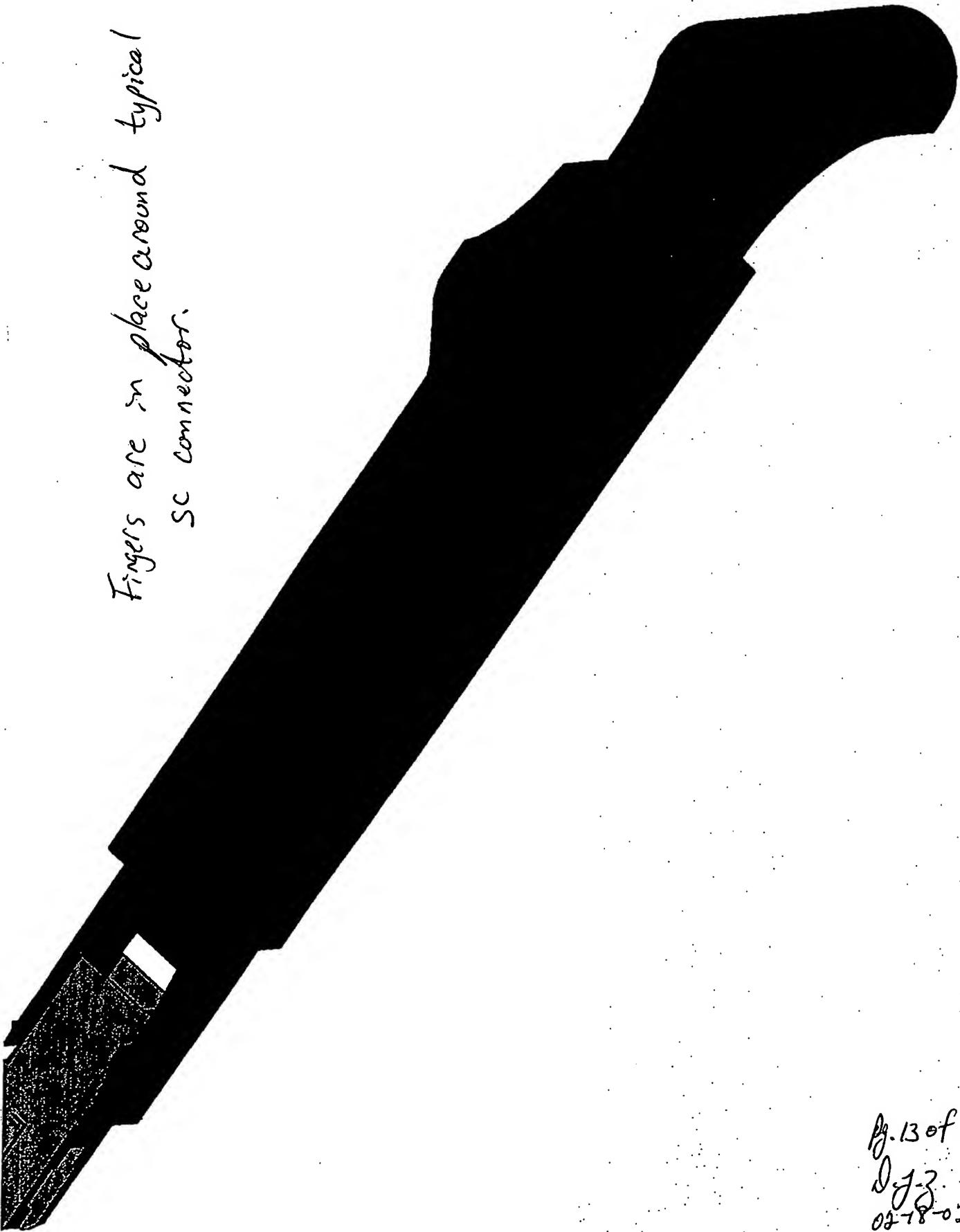
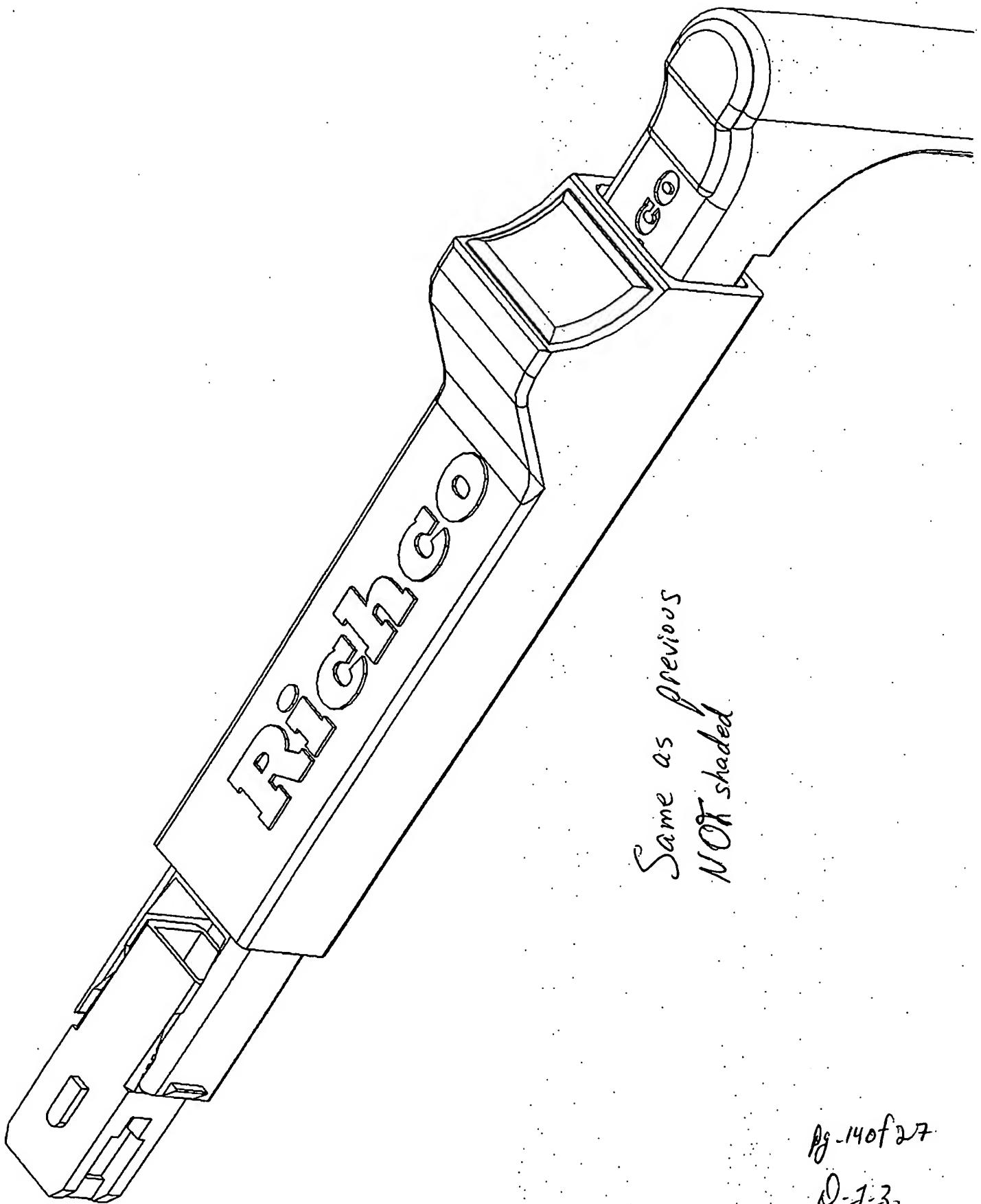


Fig. 13 of 27
02-18-02

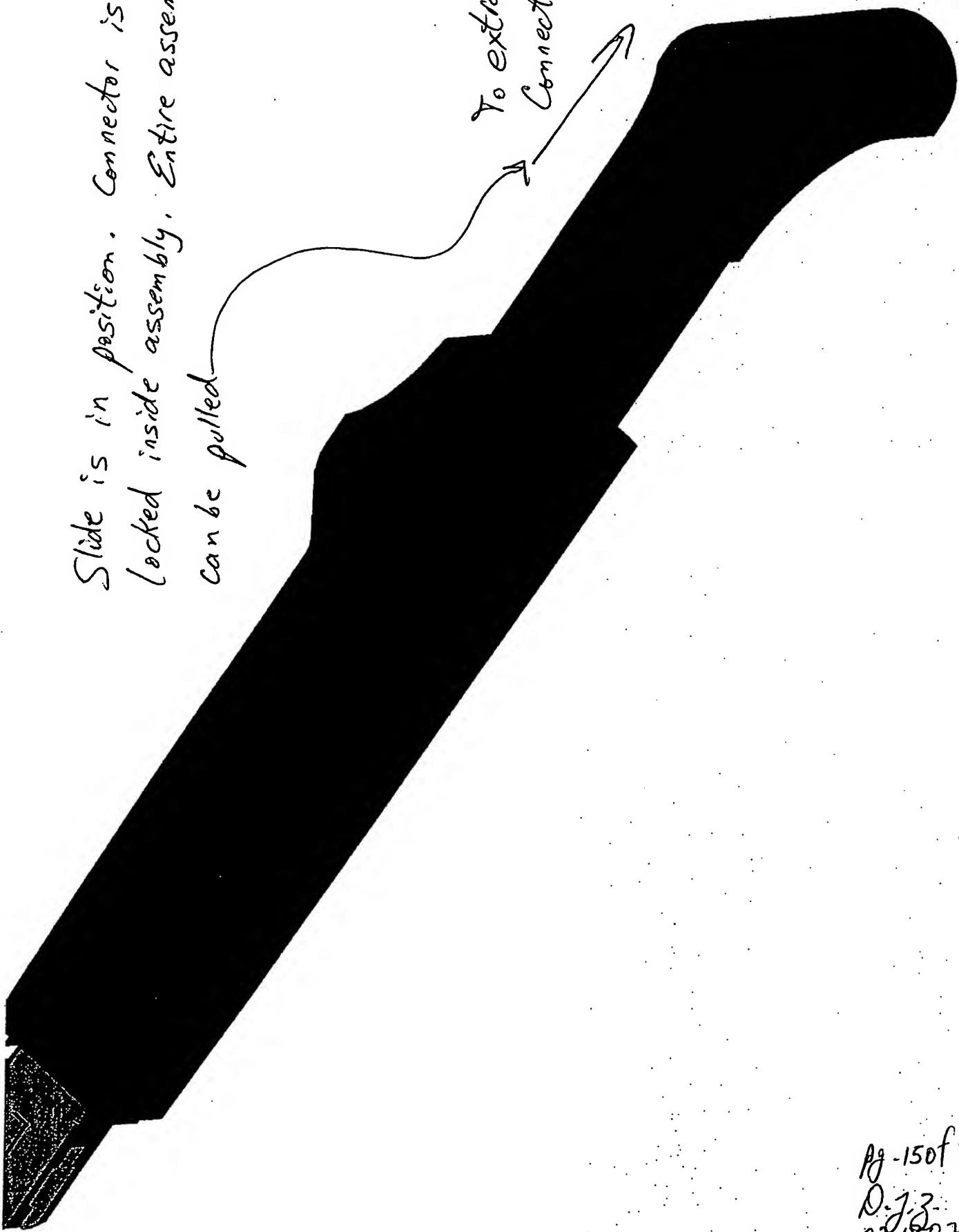


Same as previous
NOT shaded

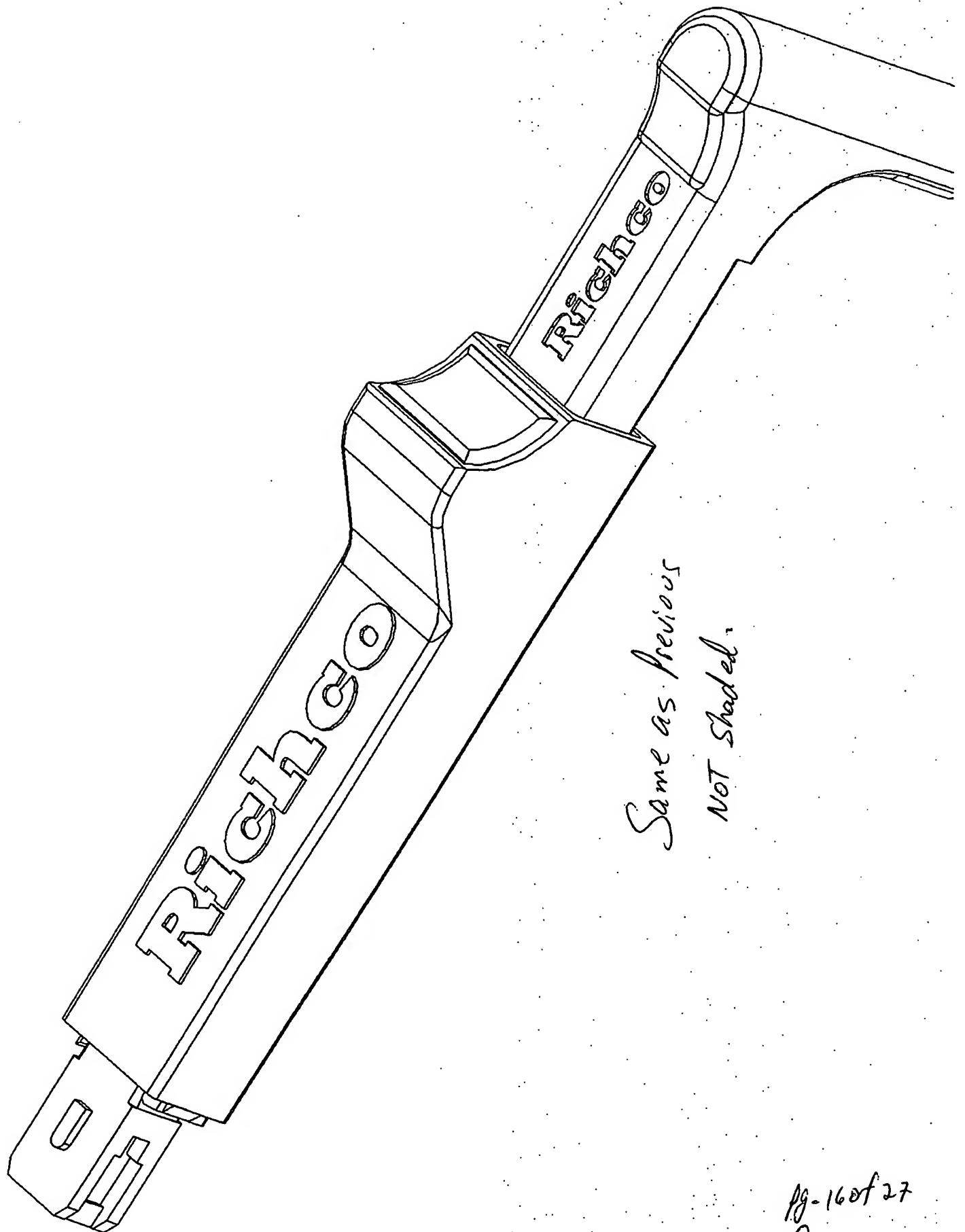
Pg. 14 of 27
D-J-3
02-18-02

Slide is in position. Connector is locked inside assembly. Entire assembly can be pulled

To extract
Connector.



Ag-150f27
D.J.3
02/18/02



Same as previous
NOT shaded.

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D.J.Z.
02-18-02



SALES PROPOSAL

Review w/
DARLENE**Richco®**

QUOTATION # 109480 - 0A0

DATE: 10/26/01

PAGE: 1

IMPORTANT: FOR THE MOST PROMPT SERVICE PLEASE REFER TO THE ABOVE QUOTATION NUMBER WHEN ORDERING.SJS
P.O. BOX 90
LOOMIS
ATTN: Crystal Allton

FOR: Cisco

CA 95650

PH: 916-652-7713

We are pleased to submit the following proposal for your consideration:

PART: FILE 4478**SC GRIPPER - OPTION # A**

Pricing:	1 M \$536.98 / M Pcs. MINIMUM
	5 M \$337.25 / M Pcs.
	10 M \$312.12 / M Pcs.

Material:
Part Notes:Acetal **Color:** NaturalTooling orders will not be accepted without receipt
of customer approved blueprint.**Tooling:**On tooling 1/3 down with P.O., balance upon approval.
Tooling charge: \$ 10,750.00.**Delivery:**

Tlg'g. 5-6 wks.samples 1-2 wks;production 4wks.after approval

PART: FILE 4478**SC GRIPPER - OPTION # B**

Pricing:	1 M \$396.46 / M Pcs. MINIMUM
	5 M \$196.71 / M Pcs.
	10 M \$156.51 / M Pcs.

Material:
Part Notes:Acetal **Color:** NaturalTooling orders will not be accepted without receipt
of customer approved blueprint.**Tooling:**On tooling 1/3 down with P.O., balance upon approval.
Tooling charge: \$ 17,500.00.

Tlg'g. 6-7 wks;samples 1-2 wks;production 4wks after approval

QUOTE NOTES:

Billing price based on release quantity.

QUOTE VALUE: \$4686.30**TERMS:**This quote is effective for 180 days from the date of issuance. If any part of
this quote is ordered, the quote will be effective for one year from the date of
issuance. No quote will remain in effect for more than one year. If your quote
has expired, please contact customer service for an updated quote.Ag.17 of 27
10-13
02-1802

F16E 4478

NOTES: UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED,
1. THIS IS A COMPUTER GENERATED DOCUMENT
ALL CHANGES MUST BE MADE IN THE WORKS
DATA BASE ONLY.

REV	DATE	BY	APPROVAL	RELEASER

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02-18-02
D.J.Z.
02-18-02

Dan Choisser
12/10/2001 04:49 PM

To: Cheryl Cummins/richcoinc@richcoinc, Dave
Decker/richcoinc@richcoinc, Curt Fuller/richcoinc@richcoinc, Frank
Lodi/richcoinc@richcoinc, Mario Pieroni/richcoinc@richcoinc, Bob
Reisel/richcoinc@richcoinc

cc:
Subject: NPC



Dec10thnpc.doc

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O.J.3.
02-18-02



December, 10th 2001

TO: NPC Committee

FROM: Dan Choisser

Subject: Minutes of 12/10/01 meeting

Europus Cross: 30mm Fiber Optic Disk. Curt asked for, and received, approval on this from the NPC. Original quotation for tooling was an 8 cavity tool. Due to the rapid changes seen in the fiber industry with different bend radii etc, the decision was made to tool up only one cavity for the disk, spacer, piller, and clip. (No damn tape) Curt will verify the original height of the disk Lucent requested and get back to Bob. Bob will have a Richco print made of all the necessary parts for quotation.

Fiber Donut Disk. Ryan has modified the design with slots to allow donut to donut fiber routing, feet to accommodate board washing, keep the board from rocking, and to keep the rivet flush in the bottom of the track. Frank is checking into potential Patent on the design, and will look into a utility patent once the parts are being manufactured. He will send a prototype and a solid model to Tom Vella from Cambridge Allen. Tom will show the part to Kirana Networks, the original requestor of this product. Curt will make sure drawings go to Beacon for tooling, and Jerry for piece part costs. Next weeks trip to Plexus we will investigate other minimum bend radii, height requirements etc, prior to designing other donut sizes.

Curt showed us triple level spacers, fiber expandable bracket, and other possible "custom" parts from Richco UK. No interest in adding to the catalog at this time.

Boot Clip/Gripper for fiber optic jumpers and pigtails. Bob and Darrin will investigate the feasibility of a plastic part that will work for this application.

Extruded Bumpers: Never worked before, so we don't want them in the catalog again.

Case Boot: Flexible boot used to connect two vacuum hoses together on agricultural planter system. Will not pursue this one due to the small volume and time required to investigate new material.

Bob notified the group that European NPC no longer exists and showed some new product from Richco Asia. Bob and Mario will work with Tony Barfoot to see if Corporate NPC, that's us, should review new product from Asia. Will also see what's needed to reinstate NPC in Europe.

Our next meeting will be held on December 17th, hope to see you there.

ff.200f27

D.J.Z.
02-18-02

Dec10thnpc.doc



Darren Zellak
01/09/2002 09:23 AM

To: protoplas@earthlink.net
Subject: Quote for Richco Inc.



Slide for SC Gripper.ST SC Gripper - Injection Molded.S

Here are two part files.

Please quote producing 1, 2, or 3 of each part in ABS with a delivery of no later than Mon./08/14/02 at 11:00 a.m.

Need quote by Noon today.

Darren Zellak
Fiber Optic Design Engineer
Richco Inc.
5825 N. Tripp Ave
Chicago IL 60646
773-290-5531
773-539-2502
DZellak@richco-inc.com

Bf.210f27
D-J-3
02-18-02



protoplas@earthlink.n
et
Sent by: "Scott Grivna"
<protoplas@earthlink.ne
t>

To: <DZellak@richco-inc.com>
Subject: RE: Quote for Richco inc.

01/09/2002 10:16 AM
Please respond to
protoplas

Darren,

The parts will cost \$45.00 each. I could have ready for Friday if I have an order by 2:00 today. I'll send a formal quote.

Regards,
Scott Grivna
Prototype Tooling & Plastics.

-----Original Message-----

From: DZellak@richco-inc.com [mailto:DZellak@richco-inc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2002 9:23 AM
To: protoplas@earthlink.net
Subject: Quote for Richco inc.

(See attached file: Slide for SC Gripper.STL) (See attached file: SC Gripper - Injection Molded.STL)

Here are two part files.

Please quote producing 1, 2, or 3 of each part in ABS with a delivery of no later than Mon./08/14/02 at 11:00 a.m.

Need quote by Noon today.

Darren Zellak
Fiber Optic Design Engineer
Richco Inc.
5825 N. Tripp Ave
Chicago IL 60646
773-290-5531
773-539-2502
DZellak@richco-inc.com

RJ.110827
RJZ
02-18-02



Prototype Tooling & Plastics Co.

1670 Cambridge Dr.
Elgin, IL 60123
Phone (847) 888-4896
FAX (847) 888-4926

Shipping List 003208

Customer No 002021
Sales Order Shipper

Ship to : RICHCO INC.
5825 N. TRIPP AVE.
CHICAGO IL. 60647

Sold to : RICHCO INC.
5825 N. TRIPP AVE.
CHICAGO IL. 60647

Ship Date	Customer PO	Sales Order	# of Boxes	Weight	Ship VIA	Bill of Lading	FOB
01/10/2002	1004884	005820-00	1	1.0000	OUR TRUCK		OUR PLANT
Item	Part / Rev / Description / Details				Order Quantity	Ship Quantity	
000001	FDM-MISC. SLIDE				1.00000	1.00000	
000002	FDM-MISC. SC GRIPPER				1.00000	1.00000	

We sincerely appreciate your order for the items described above. If this acknowledgement is not correct in any way, please notify us immediately so we may make the needed corrections before your order is processed.

With best regards,

Scott Grivna
Regional Sales Manager

*Received 01-11-02
Dawn Bell 01-11-02*

Dawn Bell

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02-18-02*

Feb 01 02 05:50p

p.1



Prototype Tooling & Plastics Co.
1670 Cambridge Dr
Elgin, IL 60123
Phone (847) 888-4886
FAX (847) 888-4926

Sales Order 005849-00

Customer 002021

To :

RICHCO INC.
5825 N. TRIPP AVE.
CHICAGO IL. 60646

Ship to :

RICHCO INC.
5825 N. TRIPP AVE.
CHICAGO IL. 60646

Phone (773)290-5531

Fax (773)539-2502

Fax

TO:
FROM:

Aerin Zellak
Debby Costing

Customer PO Number	Order Date	Terms	FOB	Ship Via	Salesperson
1005086 (Verbal)	02/01/2002	2% 10/NET 30	OUR PLANT	UPS	SG
Item	Part / Rev / Description / Details			Quantity	Unit Price
001	FDM-MISC GRIPPER-INNER MATERIAL: ABS, NATURAL PTP FDM JOB NO: 00346-0000. Delivery: 02/04/02 - 02/05/02	U/M EA			1.00000 103.50000 103.50
002	FDM-MISC GRIPPER-OUTER SLEEVE MATERIAL: ABS, NATURAL PTP FDM JOB NO: 00347-0000. Delivery: 02/04/02 - 02/05/02				1.00000 67.50000 67.50
We sincerely appreciate your order for the items described above. If this acknowledgement is not correct in any way, please notify us immediately so we may make the needed corrections before your order is processed.				Total Items Price	US\$ 171.00
With best regards,				OK 21/02	
Scott Grivna Regional Sales Manager				Pg. 24 of 27 02-18-02	

Customer

Page 1

Authorized Signature



Darren Zellak
01/08/2002 03:58 PM

To: sgarner@sci-proto.com
Subject: SLA Quote for Richco-Inc.



Slide for SC Gripper.SLDPRSC Gripper - Injection Molded.SLDP

Stuart,

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DZellak@richco-inc.com

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D.J.Z.
02-19-02



"Geoffrey Garner" To: <DZellak@richco-inc.com>
<ggarner@sci-proto.co Subject: Scimitar Quote 2999-02; RE: SLA Quote for Richco-Inc.
m>

01/09/2002 08:54 AM

Please respond to
ggarner

Darren,

Attached is your quote for 1, 2 and three of the Gripper and Slide. If we get started today, you should be able to receive these by noon tomorrow. Let me know if it's a go.

Thanks,

Geoff

-----Original Message-----

From: DZellak@richco-inc.com [mailto:DZellak@richco-inc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2002 7:39 AM
To: sgarnet@sci-proto.com
Subject: RE: SLA Quote for Richco-Inc.

(See attached file: Slide for SC Gripper.IGS) (See attached file: SC Gripper - Injection Molded.IGS)



Scimitar Quote 2999-02.x

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02-08-02

Scimitar Prototyping, Inc.
1529 Bourbon Parkway
Streamwood, IL 60107

Quote: **2999-02**

QUOTE

Date: **9-Jan-02**

Payment Terms: **Net 30**

Quote Submitted to:

Darren Zellak
Richco, Inc.
5825 N. Tripp Avenue
Chicago, IL 60646

Dir. Ph: **773-290-5531**
Dir Fax: **773-539-2502**
Email: **DZellak@richco-inc.com**
Cen. Ph:
Cen. Fax:
RFQ#:

If you have any questions about this quote, please call or email the contact listed below:

SPI
Sales

Geoffrey Garner

Tel: **630-483-3875** Fax: **630-483-3876** Email: **ggarner@scl-proto.com**

Line #	Part Name/ Number	Item/ Properties	Qty	Unit Price	Volume Discount Price	Ext. Price
1	SC Gripper - Injection Molded	SLA Model - Solid (Engr. Review)	1	\$ 114.00	\$ 114.00	\$ 114.00
			2	\$ 114.00	\$ 93.00	\$ 186.00
			3	\$ 114.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 255.00
2	Slide for SC Gripper	SLA Model - Solid (Engr. Review) material: SOMOS 9120	1	\$ 108.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 108.00
			2	\$ 108.00	\$ 87.00	\$ 174.00
			3	\$ 108.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 240.00

Total for 1 SLA set: \$ 222.00
Total for 2 SLA sets: \$ 360.00
Total for 3 SLA sets: \$ 495.00

Estimated leadtime: 1-2 working days from receipt of customer p.o.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- > Assumes Scimitar Prototyping, Inc. will be provided with a 3D CAD database, trimmed-surface IGES, or STL file.
- > Quoted deliveries are estimates only, based on typical work loading. Delivery commitments will only be made at the time an order is placed.
- > Shipping charges are not included in the part pricing. Additional shipping charges may be assessed on the invoice. *All packages will be shipped via AIRBORNE EXPRESS priority overnight, unless otherwise specified.* Streamwood, IL will be F.O.B. origin.
- > This quote is valid for 30 days.
- > RETURN POLICY - Scimitar Prototyping, Inc. will repair or replace parts deemed unacceptable by the customer if 1) Parts are returned prior to 14 days from the original ship date and 2) Unacceptable status has been confirmed by Scimitar Prototyping, Inc., to be the responsibility of Scimitar Prototyping, Inc.
- > "Engineering Review" describes the level of finishing quoted and indicates that the outside surfaces of the model will be lightly smoothed.
- > Other finishing levels are available and can be quoted upon request.

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02-18-02

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